

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A cargo carrier having a structural framework operatively coupled with a vehicle towing component and having a first load support extending from said structural framework for supporting cargo during transit, wherein the improvement comprises:

a flaccid indeterminate length strap;

5 a buckle through which said flaccid indeterminate length strap passes and which operatively retains tension in said flaccid indeterminate length strap when said strap is operatively cinched against said supporting cargo; and

10 a first guide coupled with and moveable relative to said first load support and also operatively coupled to said flaccid indeterminate length strap, said first guide having tensile forces applied thereto between said first load support and said indeterminate length strap when said strap is operatively cinched against said supporting cargo.

2. The cargo carrier of claim 1 further comprising a second guide coupled with and moveable relative to said first load support and also operatively coupled to said flaccid indeterminate length strap at a location spaced along said flaccid indeterminate length strap from said first guide sufficient to encompass said cargo about a first perimeter segment and operatively separated along said first load support from said first guide sufficient to encompass said cargo about a second perimeter segment, said second guide having tensile forces applied thereto between said first load support and said indeterminate length strap when said strap is operatively cinched against said supporting cargo.

3. The cargo carrier of claim 1 wherein said buckle is affixed to said first guide.
4. The cargo carrier of claim 3 wherein said buckle is further engaged with said flaccid indeterminate length strap and operatively couples said flaccid indeterminate length strap to said first guide.
5. The cargo carrier of claim 2 wherein said buckle is affixed to said second guide.
6. The cargo carrier of claim 5 wherein said cinching brings said first and second guides closer together along said first load support.
7. The cargo carrier of claim 1 further comprising wherein said load support extends from said structural framework along a longitudinal axis of said load support and said first guide moves parallel to said longitudinal axis.
8. The cargo carrier of claim 7 wherein said load support provides horizontal support for said load.
9. The cargo carrier of claim 1 wherein said flaccid indeterminate length strap has first and second ends and operatively engages said cargo between said first and second ends during transit.
10. The cargo carrier of claim 9 wherein said flaccid indeterminate length strap first end is anchored relative to said structural framework.

11. The cargo carrier of claim 2 wherein said flaccid indeterminate length strap passes through said first guide.

12. The cargo carrier of claim 1 wherein said guide comprises a ring.

13. The cargo carrier of claim 1 wherein said guide comprises a tube.

14. The cargo carrier of claim 10 further comprising:

first and second alternative mounts for locating said longitudinally extensive support surface relative to said structural framework; and

first and second alternative anchors for locating said flaccid indeterminate length strap relative to said structural framework, said first alternative anchor adjacent said first alternative mount and said second alternative anchor adjacent said second alternative mount, wherein said flaccid indeterminate length strap and said longitudinally extensive support surface may be moved as a pair relative to said structural framework between two alternative positions.

15. A cargo retainer for retaining at least one cargo item thereto, comprising:

a longitudinally extensive support surface terminating in an unsupported end;

a flexible and tensionable retainer co-extensive with said longitudinally extensive support and spaced therefrom to accommodate said at least one cargo item therebetween;

5 a first means for retaining a portion of said flexible and tensionable retainer adjacent a portion of said longitudinally extensive support surface, said first retaining means moveable along an axis parallel to a direction of longitudinal extension of said longitudinally extensive support surface to vary

the location of said portion of said longitudinally extensive support surface that is adjacent said portion of said flexible and tensionable retainer.

16. The cargo retainer of claim 15 further comprising:

a second cargo item; and

a second means for retaining a second portion of said flexible and tensionable retainer adjacent a second portion of said longitudinally extensive support surface to thereby form a second space to accommodate said second cargo item therebetween, said at least one and second cargo items separated one from the other by said first retaining means, said second retaining means moveable along an axis parallel to a direction of longitudinal extension of said longitudinally extensive support surface to vary the location of said second portion of said longitudinally extensive support surface that is adjacent said second portion of said flexible and tensionable retainer.

17. The cargo retainer of claim 16 wherein said longitudinally extensive support surface comprises a rod, said first retaining means comprises a tube concentric about said rod and said second retaining means comprises a ring concentric about said rod.

18. A convertible cargo carrier having a generally upright member and at least one laterally extending support arm configured to support at least one diverse load, wherein the improvement comprises:

a means for passing from said laterally extending support arm about said at least one diverse load and conforming generally thereto;

a means for tensioning said passing and conforming means;

first and second alternative mounts for locating said laterally extending support arm relative to said generally upright member; and

10 first and second alternative anchors for locating said passing and conforming means relative to said generally upright member, said first alternative anchor adjacent said first alternative mount and said second alternative anchor adjacent said second alternative mount, wherein said passing and conforming means and said laterally extending support arm may be moved as a pair relative to said generally upright member between two alternative positions.

19. The convertible cargo carrier of claim 18 wherein said tensioning means further comprises:  
a means for slidably engaging said laterally extending support arm; and  
a releasable clip for receiving said passing and conforming means and retaining tension therein.

20. The convertible cargo carrier of claim 18 wherein said slidable engaging means further comprises a member concentric about said laterally extending support arm.